



1st GRADE TIMES

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San Antonio, Texas

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Guadalupe State Park Field Trip Fantastic!

On Friday, October 16 four school busses and 140 boisterous first graders arrived at Guadalupe State Park for a day of science wonder and exploration. Science centers were set up around the river park for students to explore the wonders of science such as creating nature bracelets, skipping rocks, toy sailboat races, tub of bubbles, and rock sorting. Bonus lessons were also discovered as we discovered a colony of leaf cutter ants, circling hawks, and a pool of tadpoles.

We concluded our trip with a picnic lunch and a very quiet trip back to school on the busses. Thank you for all your hard work, your yummy snacks, and your clean-up efforts.



<http://clipart-for-free.blogspot.com/2008/09/autumn-clipart.html>

Scarecrow Creations

Walk our first grade hall to see wonderful scarecrow creations and stories about Fall, festivals, and scarecrows. Some of the scarecrow stories are scary, others are science fiction, and some are silly. Students worked diligently through the writer's workshop process of pre-writing, composing, revising,

(continued on page 3)



Students and parents head to the river with hopes of finding treasure.

Incredible Discovery Found on Playground

Micah and Jack found a very interesting caterpillar on our playground last week. With a little research, Jack discovered it to be a "Waved Sphinx" caterpillar. The life cycle of this caterpillar will yield a large, brown moth with wavy designs on its wings. We're keeping the caterpillar well housed and fed in our classroom for scientific observation in our science journals about the life cycle of moths.

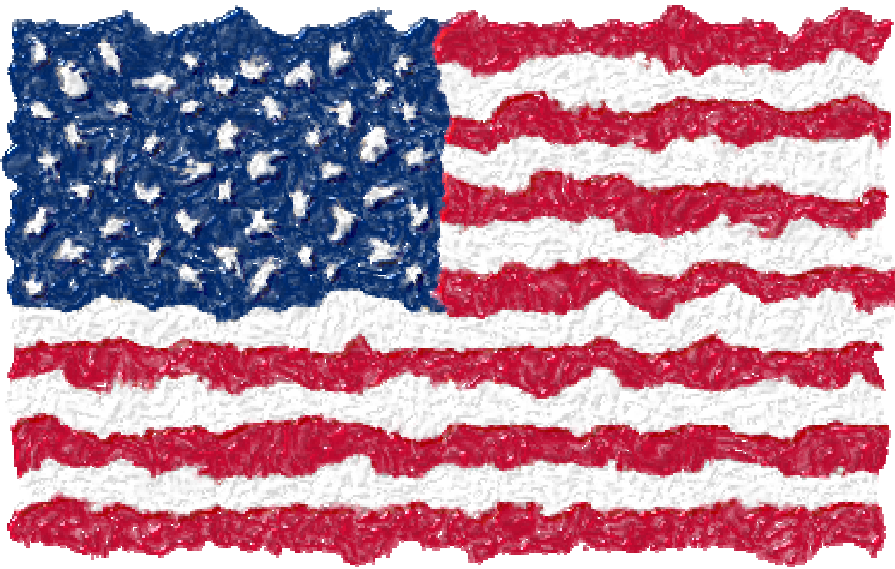
Also added to our collection on Thursday was a mysterious pupa of some sort. We're anxious to see what emerges from the chrysalis once it has transformed.

Both of these discoveries tie nicely to our previous meal worm unit where we watched meal worms transform from larvae to pupa to the adult darkling beetle.



Waved Sphinx caterpillar discovered by Micah and Jack.

Photo by Lacy L. Hyche, Auburn University, Bugwood.org



The American flag symbolizes honor, valor, bravery and sacrifice.

<http://www.pixabella.com/plugin/tag/american-flags>

National Recycling Day

November 15, 2009

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Please send in washed plastic bottles, packaging, or containers that you feel could be transformed into something interesting. The week following National Recycling Day we will be discovering ways to reuse materials. We will look for ways to reuse the items you send in our classroom, such as containers for collecting insects from the playground, pencil holders, crayon sorters, etc.

Veteran's Day Assembly

On Wednesday, November 11 at 2 p.m. the entire school will attend an assembly to honor our veterans.

Thank you for sending in your pictures of loved ones and friends who serve or have served in our nation's military forces. The Wall of Honor is hung in the main hallway and our classes pass it daily. We've had great discussions about what it means to honor or those that serve our country.

Our lessons this week will focus on what Veteran's Day means. Some vocabulary we will be discussing is honor, valor, bravery, sacrifice. We will explore the Veteran's Administration government website at

<http://www4.va.gov/kids/k-5/index.asp>

to make a Medal of Honor color pictures of various National monuments.

Parents and family members are invited to attend the assembly. If you are a veteran and would like to speak to our class about your military service, please email me at lavila@ahisd.net.

Annual Woodridge Halloween Parade a Hit with Students, Parents

Goblins and ghouls looked fabulous for the Woodridge school-wide parade. Even our principal and office staff got into the spirit showing off their groovy bus as they led the parade. The festivities began as the intercom played "The Monster Mash." Students grades 1 through 5 paraded down the halls displaying their creative costumes. The festivities continued with a rock-n-roll sock hop in the gym. The day was filled with pumpkin activities and fall festival parties.



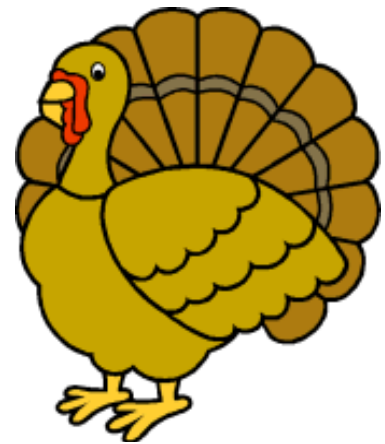
Staff and students alike participate in the annual parade.

First Grade Thanksgiving Feast Coming Soon

Mark your calendars for the Fall Feast on November 20. The feast celebrates the cooperative efforts between Native Americans and the Pilgrims who helped settle our colonies and the feast also celebrates the many ways that families come together during the holiday season. The feast also kicks off our week long HOLIDAY from school. No school November 23-27.

Each first grade class will be responsible for making a dish to bring to the grand potluck! We ask that one parent from each classroom donate a turkey (pre-cooked and carved) for our event. Our class will be making fruit salad, so please send in a variety of pre-cut fruit on Thursday, Nov. 19. A sign-up sheet will be sent home in travel folders.

Students will be making special holiday necklaces from dyed macaroni for each participant of the feast. Parents are invited to participate and enjoy this wonderful event. Please RSVP by Thursday, November 19 if you plan to attend so we have ample food and a necklace for you.



http://www.free-clipart-pictures.net/holiday_clipart.html



Display of Renée Glashow's class project.

Let's Talk Turkey!

Coming home early the week of November 9 will be a Tom Turkey project. Please know that this is an optional activity meant only for family fun. I will send a template of a turkey, much like the turkeys you find at the grocery store – featherless and frozen. Your child's job is to “dress” Tom Turkey in a fun and festive fashion! Get creative with your child! Ideas for costumes can include cartoon characters, movie stars, political leaders, etc. The results are a hilarious rendering of well-dressed and well-disguised Thanksgiving turkeys!

Scarecrow Creations

(Continued from page 1)

editing, and publishing to create these terrific writing pieces. Students in first grade are evaluated on two primary writing traits, ideas and conventions. We work on learning to develop ideas for our writing by teaching techniques such as brainstorming, mind-mapping, listing, and using interest inventories. Conventions that we expect first graders to master are using lowercase letters appropriately, using capital letters at the beginning of sentences and with names, and using some basic punctuation such as periods, question marks, or explanation points. Each year, teachers record two writing samples from students to put in their cumulative folders to share their growth and progress to their next years' teacher.



http://usmint.gov/about_the_mint/coinLibrary/index.cfm?flash=

Our math focus has been on adding numbers to ten. We've learned a few math games like *50 or Bust* and *Ten and More* to help us practice these concepts. We're still working on money skills-identifying coins and adding their values. A good website to visit at home is <https://www.NationalCity.com/StudentSavers>. This site offers fun and exciting games to practice counting money and spending money.

For money practice at home, keep a jar of coins on the table and encourage your child to save and count coins. Sorting coins is another activity that helps solidify coin identification skills. Read the articles below for more ideas to help teach financial skills.

Listmania!

In addition to big financial decisions and plans, use lists in everyday activities such as grocery shopping, back to school needs, and planning errands. Lists offer kids a chance to practice writing skills, organizing, and follow-up.

Place the grocery list on the refrigerator or on a door for family members to add requests throughout the week. Before going to the store, sit down with your children and categorize needs and wants. Discuss budgeting for items needed. Give ideas for ways for kids to save for wants and put off purchases to a later date. Using a list can help keep shopping organized, stay on budget, and avoid many impulse purchases.



<http://www.freeclipartnow.com/office/clipboard.jpg.htmlyes>

Book Nook

The Penny Pot by Stuart J. Murphy

Coin Count-y: A Bank in a Book
by Jim Talbot

Pigs Will Be Pigs by Amy Axelrod

Mom, Can You Buy Me This?
by Kathryn Durham

*Funny Business: A Bazillion Cool
Business Ideas for Kids*
by Michael J. Searls

*New Moon Money: How to Get It, Spend It,
Save It*
by New Moon

December Holiday Happenings

Mark your calendar for a day of music and entertainment to kick off the December Holiday Break – December 15 at 1 p.m. Join us in the auditorium for hilarious holiday songs. Each class will sing and perform to various songs such as *All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth*, *Santa Clause You are Much too Fat*, and others. Our class will be performing *All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth* so continue to encourage wiggling of those loose teeth!

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